

Appl. No. 10/811,696
Atty. Docket No. 9533
Amdt. dated March , 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16 of the specification, and ending at page 17 of the specification, as follows:

FIG. 4 is a plan view of yet another exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of a diaper 320 of the present invention in its flat-out, uncontracted state (i.e., without elastic induced contraction) with the backsheet 326, which contacts the wearer's garment, shown facing the viewer. Similar to FIG. 3, diaper 320 has a first backsheet zone 360, a second backsheet zone 370 and a third backsheet zone 380. First backsheet zone 360 is disposed primarily in the crotch region 337 and front waist region 336. Second backsheet zone 370 is disposed primarily in the distal portion of back waist region 338. Third backsheet zone 380 is disposed primarily in the back waist region 338 with at least a portion extending into buttocks region 339. Third backsheet zone 380 has a lower basis weight, thickness, or density than second backsheet zone 370 which has a lower basis weight, thickness, or density than first backsheet zone 360. Third backsheet zone 380 is such designed to conform to the outward-protruding buttocks of the wearer. Diaper 320 also has an elastomeric element 390 which overlaps and is joined to a portion of second backsheet zone 370 and third backsheet zone 380, thus forming two discrete stretch zones 372, 382 having a primary direction of stretch in the lateral direction as indicated by arrow 373. In this way, only a single elastomeric element 390 is needed to create a first stretch zone 372 and a second stretch zone 382. Stretch zone 372 (i.e., second backsheet zone 370 combined with elastomeric element 390) is located near the distal portion of back waist region 338 so as to anchor the diaper 320 to the lower backside of the wearer, discussed infra. Stretch zone 382 (i.e., third backsheet zone ~~370~~ 380 combined with elastomeric element 390) is located longitudinally inboard of stretch zone 372 and substantially, laterally-aligned with fastening elements 355. Being more extensible than stretch zone 372, stretch zone 382 facilitates the lateral pulling of fastening elements 355 by the wearer or caregiver particularly during application and the generation of a line of tension between the fastening elements; whereas, stretch zone 372 continues to provide anchoring within the back waist region 338 and prevents gapping at the back waist edge. In a non-limiting example, the absorbent core (not shown) is either affixed to backsheet 326 in the third backsheet zone 380 along longitudinal centerline 1000 or not at all. In another non-limiting example, the absorbent core (not shown) does not extend into the second backsheet zone 370.